



STORY

7/31/06

Ruth (Ruth 1-4)

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven, when I consider how Naomi in her discouragement gave poor counsel, but later in faith gave good counsel to Ruth, I feel the responsibility of these students in my care. Do not let me become discouraged but rather strengthen my faith in Your forgiveness through Christ and in Your wise providence in my life. Give me wisdom to guide and encourage my students to follow You with trusting, faithful hearts throughout their lives. For though we do not understand all of Your plans, we trust that You, O Lord, direct our lives for the eternal blessing of many souls. With faith in You, O Father, Your Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, I pray, Amen

VOCABULARY

Chapter 1:

judges - civil and religious leaders whom God gave to Israel to lead them on His behalf once they were settled in the land of Canaan and before their first human king.

sojourn - live someplace temporarily. Another place is considered home.

(names:) *Elimelech* - "My God is King" *Naomi* - "Pleasant" or "Jehovah is pleased" *Mara* - "bitter"

Moab - the land of the descendants of Lot, the nephew of Abraham. It was located immediately east of the Dead Sea. The people there were heathen but spoke a dialect of Hebrew.

Ephrathites - from the region of Bethlehem. (cf. Gen. 35:16, Mic. 5:2)

Chapter 2:

kinsman - Someone related by blood. Near kinsman - A closely related blood relative upon whom certain duties fell to preserve the land and birthright inheritance for a family if immediate heirs were not available.

glean - Reapers (people who harvested by hand) missed some of the harvest. God had told the Israelites not to go back to catch any missed grain but to let the poor and widows "glean" or pick up what was left behind.

sheaves - bound bundles of the stalks of grain stood upright to dry before the grain was separated from the stalks by threshing and winnowing.

ephah - a unit of measure equal to 7.5 gallons or enough to make about 20 loaves of bread.

Chapter 3:

winnowing and threshing - Threshing breaks the kernels of grain from the stalks as they are beaten or rubbed across the "threshing floor" or hard packed dirt or rock. Winnowing separated the grain from the straw and husks by means of throwing it in the air and letting the wind blow away the waste while the heavy grain fell to the ground.

Ruth

OT

Teacher's Notes

God's Hand in Our Lives

OUTER AIM

God blesses a faithful widow with a new family.

INNER AIM

God's actions with His faithful people produce many rich blessings.

BACKGROUND

According to verse 1, this story took place during the time of the judges. God tells us in Judges 17:6, "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes." The book of Judges showed God's faithfulness even when His people were unfaithful to Him. The book of Ruth shows that despite the wickedness around about, one non-Israelite and a few Israelites faithfully followed God's will and were richly blessed for it.

Setting the stage

Chapter 1

vs. 1 - 2: An Israelite family leaves their home because of famine in the land to live in the heathen country of Moab. The word "sojourn" in Hebrew implies they expected to return to Israel.

vs. 3 - 5: First Elimelech dies, leaving Naomi a widow. Her two sons marry Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth. Then over a span of 10 years, the two sons die, leaving all 3 women as widows.

A bittersweet homecoming

vs 6 - 7: Naomi hears that her homeland has been released from famine so she sets out with her 2 daughters-in-law to return to Bethlehem in Judah.

vs. 8 - 9: Naomi, is discouraged by her situation and doesn't know how she could support her daughters in law. So Naomi blessed them, Orpah and Ruth, and urged them to return to their parents' homes where they could be supported and more likely find new husbands. Naomi's blessing implies that Orpah and Ruth knew about the true God. But her urging them to return to their families who likely worshipped false gods, shows her own struggling faith in the true God.

vs 10: Both daughters said no, they would return with Naomi to Bethlehem to Naomi's people.

vs 11 - 13: Women generally depended on husbands to support them and marriage was considered much more desirable at that time than today. Naomi wouldn't be able to provide her daughters-in-law with husbands for support and the joys of marriage. Naomi felt sorry for her daughters in law because of how the Lord had treated her thus far.

vs 14 - 15: Orpah wept goodbye and returned to her parents' house and their gods. But Ruth clung to Naomi and didn't want to return. Naomi again urged "go back" with your sister-in-law.

vs 16 - 17: Ruth's selfless declaration of faithfulness to Naomi has often been used to exemplify the faithfulness needed between husband and wife. She is willing to accept whatever Naomi's circumstances would be and to worship Naomi's God so that they might be together until death parts them.

vs 18: Naomi accepts Ruth's determination to remain with her and stops arguing with her about it.

vs 19 - 22: When they arrive in Bethlehem together, Naomi expresses her discouragement to those who knew her by asking for a different name. Instead of Naomi which means "pleasant," she wished to be called Mara which means "bitter." "For the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me." Blinded by grief from her past, her faith is dim for the future.

Ruth meets a kind, God-fearing relative

Chapter 2

vs 1: Boaz is introduced as a wealthy relative of Naomi's husband.

vs 2: God through the civil laws which He set up for Israel had provided a way for the widows, orphans and poor to be fed. They were allowed to go into the fields, vineyards, and olive groves at harvest and gather whatever was left by the reapers. Ruth asked Naomi's permission to make use of that provision on their behalf.

vs 3: Ruth went to the fields and "happened to come," by God's subtle direction, to the field of Boaz, the kinsman.

vs 4 - 7: When Boaz came to oversee the harvest, the greetings he exchanged with his servants that showed that they worshipped the Lord. Boaz noticed Ruth and asked his servant who she was. The servant gave a good report identifying Ruth to Boaz.

vss 8 - 9: Boaz asks Ruth to continue gleaning in his fields and extends to Ruth protection and special favor.

vs 10: Ruth, in the customary sign of great respect in that time and country, bowed to Boaz wondering why he would treat a foreigner so well.

vs 11 - 12: Boaz explains that he respects her faithfulness to Naomi in leaving all to remain with Naomi. He prays that the Lord in whom she now trusts for refuge would bless her well. (cf. the refuge of wings illustration in the following: Ruth 3:9, Deut. 32:10-12; Exod. 25:20; Ps. 91:4ff.)

vs 13: Ruth expresses her humble appreciation and hope for his continued favor, though she recognizes that she is not even one of his servants.

vs 14 - 18: Boaz continues to show extra favor to Ruth with an invitation to eat with the workers and with special instructions to let her gather extra grain. Ruth in turn saved some of her lunch for Naomi and worked hard to glean and prepare the unusually favorable amount of grain she collected and brought back to Naomi.

vs 19 - 23: Naomi, upon hearing the good report about Boaz from Ruth, began to see again the Lord's blessings upon them. Naomi then encouraged Ruth to make use of the opportunity for protection and extra care that the Lord provided. And Ruth faithfully did what Naomi (and God) wanted. This continued for a few months, from about the time of Passover through Pentecost.

Naomi and Ruth seek a God-pleasing solution

Chapter 3

vs 1 - 4: Naomi proposed that Ruth make good use of the special laws God had provided to keep land within the family line of inheritance. {God's civil law [Leviticus 25:23-28] said that near kinsmen had to buy back land that their poor kinsmen had sold in order to make sure that every family maintained an inheritance within the Promised Land. But, if later a male heir came of age, the land would be returned to the male heir and the kinsman would lose the redemption price of the land. This was one of the ways that God sustained the family line for the Promised Savior.} Perhaps Boaz would serve as a "kinsman-redeemer" who would pay a good price for Naomi's (and Elimelech's inherited) land. And if, Boaz should choose to marry Ruth and they had a boy, then their heir would receive the land back that had been Elimelech's. So, Naomi instructed Ruth to look her most attractive and visit Boaz in the night when he was feeling good after a hard day's work and a good supper. Then Ruth should propose marriage to him and suggest he perform the duties of the kinsman-redeemer.

vs 5 - 9: Ruth agrees and does what Naomi tells her to do. She even uses Boaz's own words to propose to him. (cf. 2:12)

vs 10 - 13: Boaz is happy to accept the proposal of marriage but realizes that a nearer kinsman may wish to buy the land first. But if the other does not, Boaz also swears to buy the land for Naomi. They spend the rest of the night together virtuously.

vs 14 - 18: In the morning they discretely part as Boaz sends Ruth home with a large gift to Naomi. And so Ruth and Naomi wait at home for Boaz to follow through with the plan.

God through Boaz arranges a happy ending

Chapter 4

vs 1 - 8: True to Naomi's expectation, Boaz carries through the plan, carefully showing the nearer kinsman how it would be more advantageous to let Boaz perform the duties of kinsman redeemer since Boaz was going to marry Ruth and their heir would receive the property back. This would cost the nearer kinsman the redemptive price of the land and so diminish his own children's heritage. (cf. The Peoples' Bible - Judges Ruth pp253-254.) The nearer kinsman agrees to let Boaz redeem the property.

vs 9 - 10: Boaz reviews before his witnesses the entire transaction so that all would know and accept the legal standing of the arrangements.

vs 11 - 12: The witnesses in turn accept their duties as witnesses and then congratulate Boaz, giving him their blessings on his marriage to Ruth. Rachel and Leah are the two wives of Jacob from whose 12 sons the 12 tribes of Israel were started. Ephrathah is the region of Bethlehem, their home city. Perez was one of Boaz' ancestors who played a key role in the history of their tribe of Judah.

vs. 13: The Lord did indeed bless Boaz and Ruth with at least one son.

vs 14 - 17a: The women of the town who witnessed Naomi's sorrow when she came to the city, rejoiced with her, praising the Lord who had provided a grandson for her in her old age through Ruth. They hoped that as Naomi cared for the child, both of them would be blessed by it. Surprising to us, but part of their culture, the neighbor women named the baby Obed.

vs 17b - 21: These final verses with their genealogy carry an important gospel message. They show that God included gentiles into the line of David, the great king of Israel, and ultimately the blood line of

Jesus our Savior. For Jesus would also be a Savior for Gentiles as well as for the faithful of Israel. The genealogy is not complete here but it highlights main characters in the line from Judah's son Perez (seven centuries before). Amminadab was the father-in-law of Aaron, Moses' brother and the high priest during the wilderness wanderings. Nahshon was the leader of the tribe of Judah during the wilderness wanderings. Salmon married Rahab, the gentile woman from Jericho who helped Israel when they began taking Canaan. And, Jesse and David we know well from events that follow in 1 Samuel 16 and into history.

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven, we know Your love for us because You sent your Son, Jesus, to be the Savior, not only of the Jews but also for us who are not Jews. You know how best to direct our lives for our own good and the eternal good of others. We pray that You would give us trusting and faithful hearts to follow Your direction throughout our life. Encourage us when we are tempted to discouragement. Strengthen us when we feel weary. Make our words and actions a blessing to others that through us others may also share in the blessings that You richly provide us. We ask this, trusting that You will receive our prayer because of Jesus who redeemed us. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Briefly review previous story as time allows. If it is about one of the judges of Israel, see the background notes for ideas how to make links to the new story. Tell the story: Teachers, be encouraged to tell the story in your own words while remaining faithful to the scriptural account. The older children should be encouraged to read this aloud from the Bible since it is a suspenseful, engaging story. Time will likely permit only one reading of the story so make some applications along the way while still completing the story.

Note: to shorten the story, one series omits the details of the following verses: 1:11-13, 18; 2:14, 18, 21, 22; 3:4,5, 7, 8, 9a, 10, 11, 13-15, 17-18, 4:1-5 (summarized),7-12, 14-16, 18-22

Discuss the lesson: While reviewing the major events of the lesson, discuss the possible applications to the students' lives. Ask questions that make them think about the lesson and show that they understand the it.

APPLICATIONS

1. Naomi began this lesson discouraged and grieving because of the loss of her husband and sons. She didn't see what good God would have in store for her. But as God through Boaz's faithful service to God and Ruth provided for her, she found cause for rejoicing. And through the previous losses for Naomi, God was able to bring a Gentile women to faith and into the line of the Savior, proclaiming God's mercy for Gentiles as well. Sometimes in life, even God's people will experience loss and struggle to see hope for good to come out of it. But God carefully works in the lives of individuals to carry out wonderful plans for the eternal good of many souls.

2. Ruth came from a family that did not believe in God, she lived part of her adult life in a country that worshipped false gods, and moved to a country where many formerly faithful people had turned from the true God. Yet through the influence of her husband and his family, God brought her to faith in Him as her Lord and Savior. God gave her the strength then to trust in Him despite many outward influences to turn away from Him. She faithfully followed God while she steadfastly remained with Naomi, as God wished according to the 4th commandment. She walked by faith and turned her back on what at the time seemed better prospects of her parents' home. (When might we need to turn our back on

seemingly better opportunities that take us farther from God?) She walked by faith to serve Naomi, despite Naomi's initial attempts to dissuade her. (Sometimes people resist our attempts to do what God says is right.) She walked by faith as she set out to provide for Naomi in the God-pleasing, God-given work of gleaning (Many times walking by faith requires hard work and patient dedication..) And she walked by faith into the arms of faithful Boaz, not knowing if she might be rejected by him, trusting God that Boaz would do what was best. And God blessed her in ways she probably had never imagined. For her honor and respect to Naomi as well as her faithfulness and trust in God, Ruth received the blessing promised in the 4th commandment, as well as the other blessings of faith in the promised Savior. So, though walking by faith may mean sacrifices, meeting with resistance, requiring hard work and dedication, and asking you to risk yourself for the sake of God's will, God will work through your faith-walk to bless you and others.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Isaiah 26:3 - You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

Psalms 17:8 - Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings,

Middle any of the above and...

Revelation 2:10 - "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Upper any of the above and...

Luke 18:29-30 - So (Jesus) said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life."

Ruth 1:16-17 - Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me."

HYMN CHOICES

What God Ordains is Always Good.- TLH #521

My God, My Father, Make Me Strong. - TLH #424

O Perfect Love - TLH #623

O Happy Home Where Thou art Loved Most Dearly - TLH #626

Ruth

Ruth 1-4

The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

God sent a famine in the land of Israel. That means there was hardly any food for the people or animals.

Many people did not love God, but not all the people had forgotten the true God. A man from Bethlehem named Elimelech and his wife Naomi trusted in the true God. They took their two sons to the land of Moab to live because there was food to eat there.

After some time Elimelech died. Naomi's sons each married a lady from Moab. One lady was named Orpah, the other was named Ruth. After a few more years, Naomi's sons died too. Naomi and Orpah and Ruth were all alone.

After some time, Naomi heard that food was growing again in Bethlehem. She wanted to move back to her old home. Orpah and Ruth said they would go too. But Naomi told them to go home to their own mom and dad. Orpah said goodbye to Naomi, but Ruth would not leave. She loved the true God and wanted to help Naomi. She said to Naomi, "I will live where you live, I will worship your God, and I will die where you die." So they both moved to Bethlehem.

Naomi and Ruth were very poor, so Ruth would go into a field of grain and gather up the leftover grain to make bread. God caused her to gather grain in the field of a rich believer named Boaz. He saw Ruth and asked who she was. When he heard how much she loved and cared for Naomi, he told his workers to let her eat and drink with them. They should also leave extra grain behind just for her to pick up. He talked with Ruth and told her to keep on working in his field. She was very thankful to him for helping her, even though she was from a different country. Boaz helped her because

he also loved the true God.

Ruth kept gathering grain in Boaz's field and soon Boaz and Ruth were married. Now Boaz would take care of Ruth and Naomi. God blessed Ruth and Boaz with a baby boy named Obed. When Obed grew up, he had a son named Jesse. Jesse grew up to have a son named David. David became the first king of Israel. Many, many years later Jesus our Savior was born from the family of David. Jesus came to earth to die on the cross to take away all people's sins.

God blesses a faithful widow with a new family.

Passage

Revelation 2:10 Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Hymn - TLH #428 v. 1

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Help me to love You as much as Ruth loved You so that I may trust in You all the time. Help me to be kind and loving to all people. Help me tell them how much You love them too. Thank You for dying for me. Amen.



Classroom Activity - Use the words below to answer the questions by following the directions. Optional Activity: Print out the names on cards below and give one to each child. Help the children read their card name. Then read the sentences and have that child hold up their card if it describes them.

Boaz Ruth Orpah Elimelech Naomi God

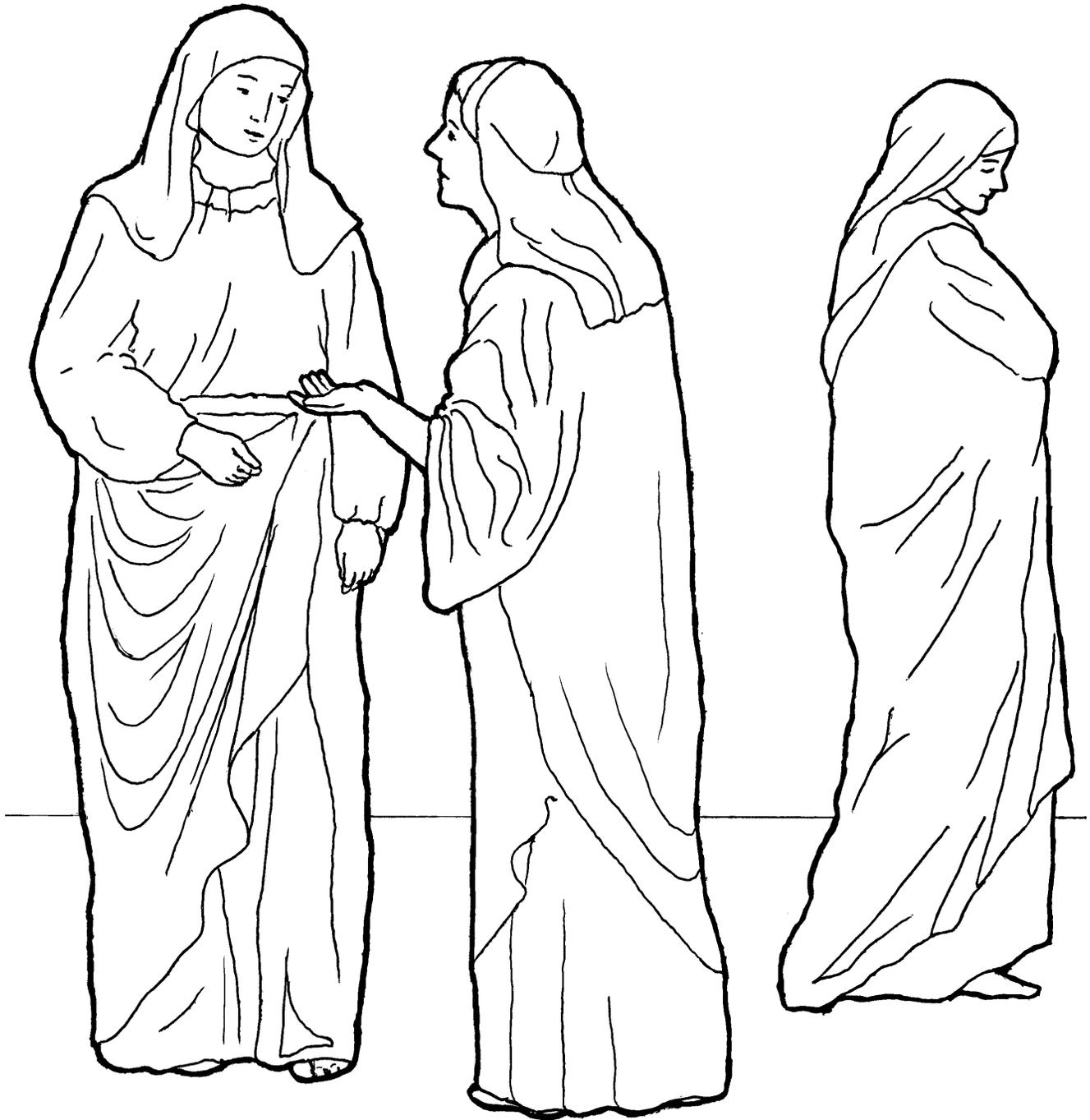
1. Circle in red the name of the mother from our story.
2. Circle in blue the name of the person who loved the true God and wanted to stay with and help Naomi.
3. Circle in green the name of the person who loved the true God and wanted to help both Ruth and Naomi.
4. Circle in orange the name of the person who moved his family to Moab to find food .
5. Circle in purple the name that is left over. What did He do for Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz in our story? What has He done for you?

Boaz	Ruth	Orpah
Elimelech	Naomi	God

Classroom Art Activity - Because we love the true God, we want to love our moms and dads just like Ruth loved Naomi. Help the children draw a picture of their dad and mom in the hearts below. Cut them out and tie ribbon or yarn through the hole to make a necklace.

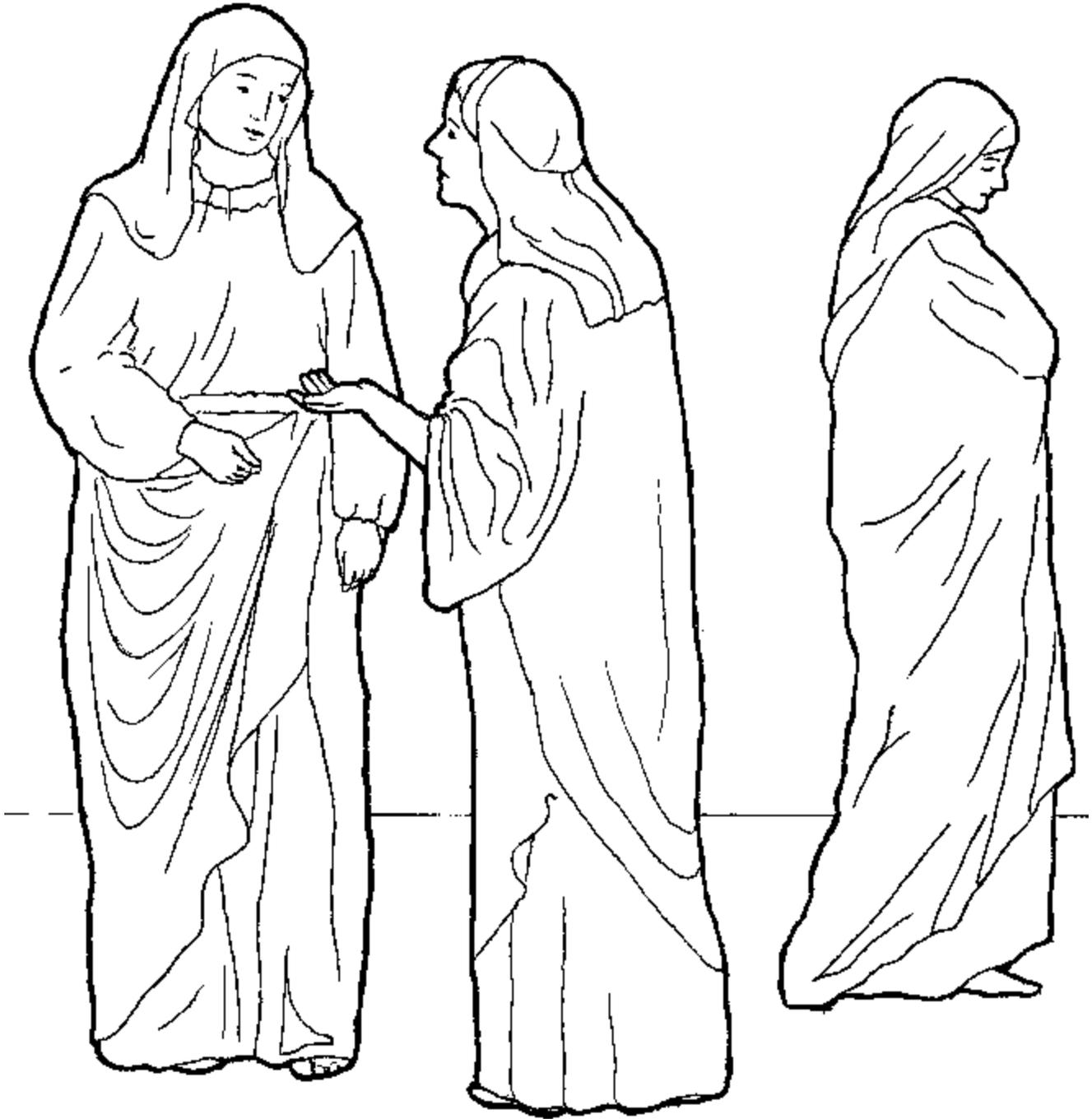


Ruth said to Naomi, "I will live where you live,
I will worship your God, and I will die where you die."



Ruth

Ruth 1-4



The Story

In the days when the people of Israel had no king, many people chose to disobey God. God made it happen that not enough food could be grown in the land.

Not all the people had forgotten the true God. A man from Bethlehem named Elimelech and his wife Naomi trusted in the true God. They took their two sons to the land of Moab to live because there was food to eat there. The people of Moab worshiped false gods, but Elimelech's family worshiped the true God.

After some time Elimelech died. Naomi's sons each married a lady from Moab. One lady was named Orpah, the other was named Ruth. After a few more years, Naomi's sons died too. Naomi and Orpah and Ruth were all alone.

After some time, Naomi heard that food was growing again in Bethlehem. She wanted to move back to her old home. Orpah and Ruth said they would go too. But Naomi told them to go home to their own mom and dad. Orpah said goodbye to Naomi, but Ruth would not leave. She loved the true God and wanted to help Naomi. She said to Naomi, "I will live where you live, I will worship your God, and I will die where you die." So they both moved to Bethlehem.

Naomi and Ruth were very poor, so Ruth would go into a field of grain and gather up the leftover grain to make bread. God caused her to gather grain in the field of a rich believer named Boaz. He saw Ruth and asked who she was. When he heard how much she loved and cared for Naomi, he told his workers to let her eat and drink with them. They should also leave extra grain behind just for her to pick up. He talked with Ruth and told her to keep on working in his field. She was very thankful to him for helping her, even though she was from a different country. Boaz helped her because he also loved the true God.

Ruth kept gathering grain in Boaz's field and soon Boaz and Ruth were married. Now Boaz would take care of Ruth and Naomi. God blessed Ruth and Boaz with a baby boy named Obed. When Obed grew up, he had a son named Jesse. Jesse grew up to have a son named David. David became the first king of Israel. Many, many years later Jesus our Savior was born from the family of David. Jesus came to earth to die on the cross to take away all people's sins.

God blesses a faithful widow with a new family.

Activity One - Use the words below to answer the questions by following the directions. Then color the picture on page 1.

Boaz Ruth Orpah Elimelech Naomi God

1. Circle in red the name of the mother from our story.
2. Circle in blue the name of the person who loved the true God and wanted to stay with and help Naomi.
3. Circle in green the name of the person who loved the true God and wanted to help both Ruth and Naomi.
4. Circle in orange the name of the person who moved his family to Moab to find food .
5. Circle in purple the name that is left over. What did He do for Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz in our story? What has He done for you?

Activity Two - Because we love the true God, we want to love our moms and dads just like Ruth loved Naomi. Draw a picture that shows how you can love and obey your mom and dad. Color your picture.

Passages

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You,
because he trusts in You.

Revelation 2:10 Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Hymn TLH #521 v. 1

What God ordains is always good;
His will abideth holy.
As He directs my life for me,
I follow meek and lowly.
My God indeed
In ev'ry need
Doth well know how to shield me;
To Him, then, I will yield me.

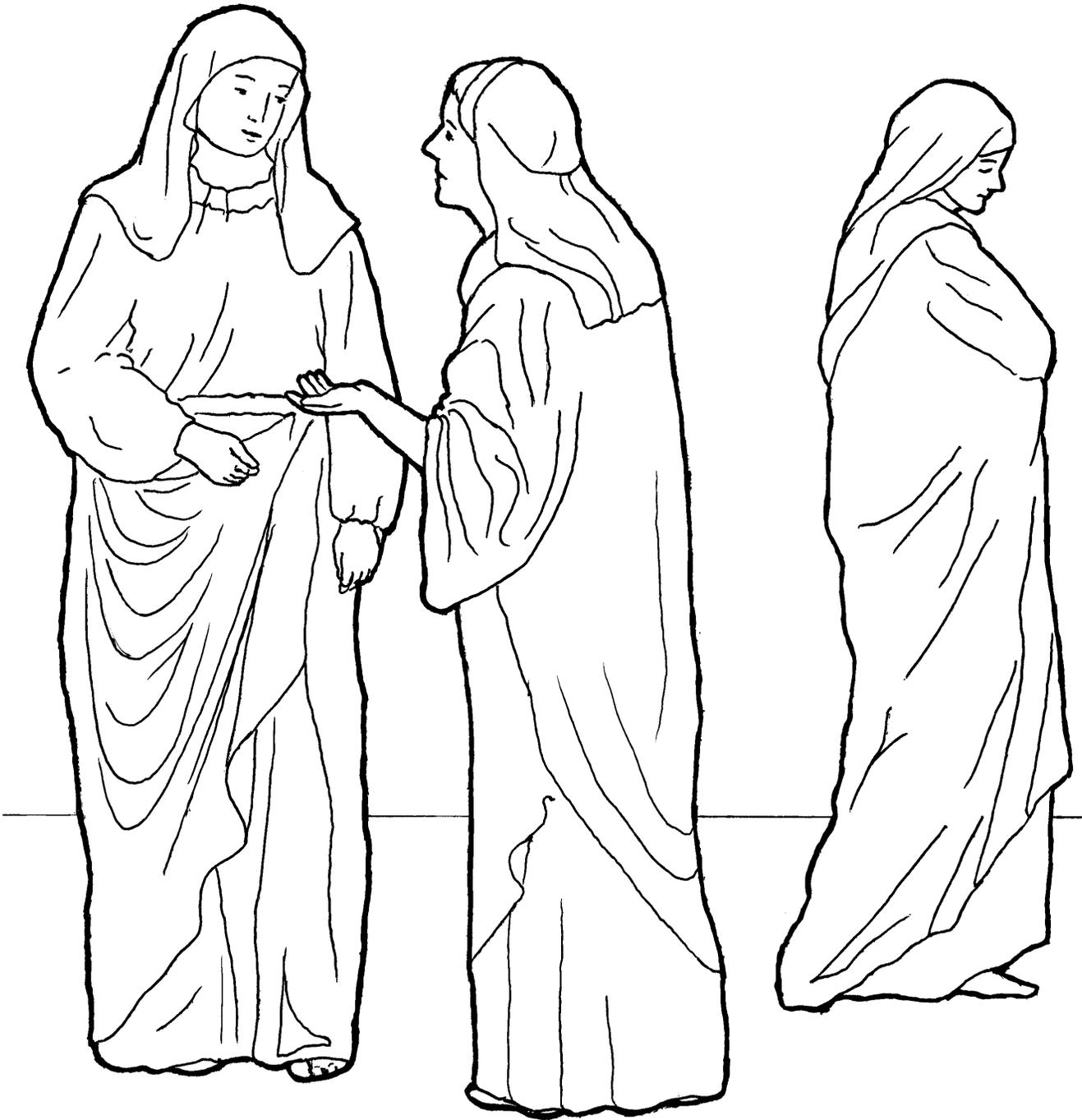
Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Help me to love You as much as Ruth loved You so that I may trust in You
all the time. Help me to be kind and loving to all people. Help me tell them
how much You love them too. Thank You for dying for me. Amen.

Ruth

Ruth 1-4



The Story

In the days when the people of Israel had no king, many people chose to disobey God and did not worship Him. God caused a famine in the land. A famine is a time when very little food grows in the ground.

Not all the people had forgotten the true God. A man from Bethlehem named Elimelech and his wife Naomi trusted in God. They took their two sons to the land of Moab to live because there was food to eat there. The people of Moab worshiped false gods, but Elimelech's family trusted in the true God.

After some time Elimelech died. Naomi's sons married women from Moab. One woman was named Orpah, the other was named Ruth. Ruth learned about the true God from her new family. After Naomi had lived in Moab for ten years, Naomi's sons died too. Naomi and Orpah and Ruth were all alone.

Naomi soon heard that food was growing again in Bethlehem. She wanted to move back to her old home. Orpah and Ruth said they would go too. But Naomi told them to go home to their own parents. Finally, Orpah said goodbye to Naomi and went home. But Ruth would not leave Naomi alone. She loved and trusted in the true God and wanted to help Naomi. She said to Naomi, "Don't ask me to leave you. I will live where you live, I will worship your God, and I will die where

you die." Then they both moved to Bethlehem. Naomi and Ruth were poor so Ruth worked very hard in a field of grain and gathered up the leftovers to make bread. God caused her to gather grain in the field of a rich believer named Boaz. Boaz was related to Naomi. He saw Ruth and asked who she was. When he heard how much Ruth loved and cared for Naomi, he told his workers to let her eat and drink with them. His workers should also leave extra grain behind just for her to pick up. He talked with Ruth and told her to keep on working in his field. She was very thankful to him for helping her, even though she was from a different country. Through Boaz, God blessed Ruth and Naomi with food to live on.

Ruth kept gathering in Boaz's field. Soon the Lord led Boaz and Ruth to marry. Now Boaz would take care of Ruth and Naomi. God planned a great blessing for them by giving them a baby boy named Obed. When Obed grew up, he had a son named Jesse. Jesse became the father of David, who became a king of Israel. Many, many years later, Jesus our Savior was born from the family of David. Jesus came to earth to live and die for all people, including you, and to take away their sins. Ruth trusted in her Savior and was blessed to be in His family line, even though she was not from the land of Israel.

God blesses a faithful widow with a new family.

Activity One - Answer the questions about the lesson.

1. What is the name of the mother in this lesson?
2. To which country did she and her husband move?
3. Why did they move to that country?
4. What was the name of the lady who trusted in the true God and loved Naomi?
5. What did she do for Naomi?
6. What was the name of the man who loved the true God and wanted to take care of Ruth and Naomi?
7. What did he do in his field that helped Ruth?
8. How did he take care of Ruth and Naomi?
9. Who protected Naomi and Ruth on their move to Bethlehem?
10. Who blessed Boaz and Ruth with a son?
11. Who was born from Ruth's family that is very special to us?
12. Why is He so special to us?

God's actions with His faithful people produce many rich blessings.

Activity Two - Ruth loved the true God and showed her love by helping and obeying Naomi. Because we believe in the true God, we will want to show our love for Him also. Write down 3 ways that you can love and obey your parents. Draw and color a picture that shows one of those ways.

I can love and obey my parents by ...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Passages

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

Psalms 17:8 Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings.

Revelation 2:10b Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Hymn TLH #521 v. 1

What God ordains is always good;
His will abideth holy;
As He directs my life for me,
I follow meek and lowly.
My God indeed
In ev'ry need
Doth well know how to shield me;
To Him, then, I will yield me.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,
Help me to love You as much as Ruth loved You so that I may trust in You all the time. Help me to be kind and loving to my parents and to all people. Help me to tell all people about how much You love them too. Thank You for being born from Ruth's family so that You could die to take away my sins. Amen.

Ruth

Ruth 1-4

Do you know the names of these three women in the picture?

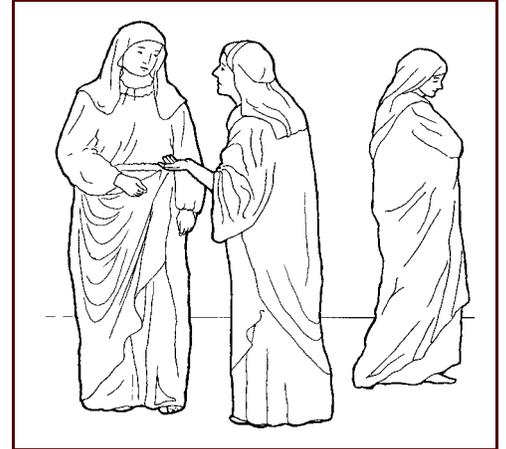
One of them will be important in the family of Jesus?

Do you know her name?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Be with us as we study the lesson of Ruth. Help us to learn from Your Word and then apply Your Word to our lives as Ruth did. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



The Story

Ruth 1:1-10, 14-17, 19-22, 2:1-13, 15-17. 19-20, 23, 3:1-3, 6, 9, 12,13b, 16, 4:1-6, 13, 17

Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion – Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.

Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons.

Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years. Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.

Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread.

Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.

And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

"The LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband." So she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

And they said to her, "Surely we will return with you to your people."

Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. And she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."

But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my



people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me."

Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?"

So she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.

"I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech; his name was Boaz.

So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!"

Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"

So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, "It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.

"And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house."

Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women.

"Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."

Then she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before.

"The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants."

And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.

"Also let some grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."

So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."

Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "The man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives."

So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to

her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?"

"Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

"Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking."

So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.

And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative."

"Now it is true that I am your close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I."

"It shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you – good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives!"

When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "Is that you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her.

Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down.

And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.

Then he said to the close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech.

"And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.'" And he said, "I will redeem it."

Then Boaz said, "On the day that you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance."

And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying; "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Outer Aim - God blesses a faithful widow with a new family.

What the Story Tells Us - Crossword Puzzle - Fill in the crossword puzzle using words from the Word Box.

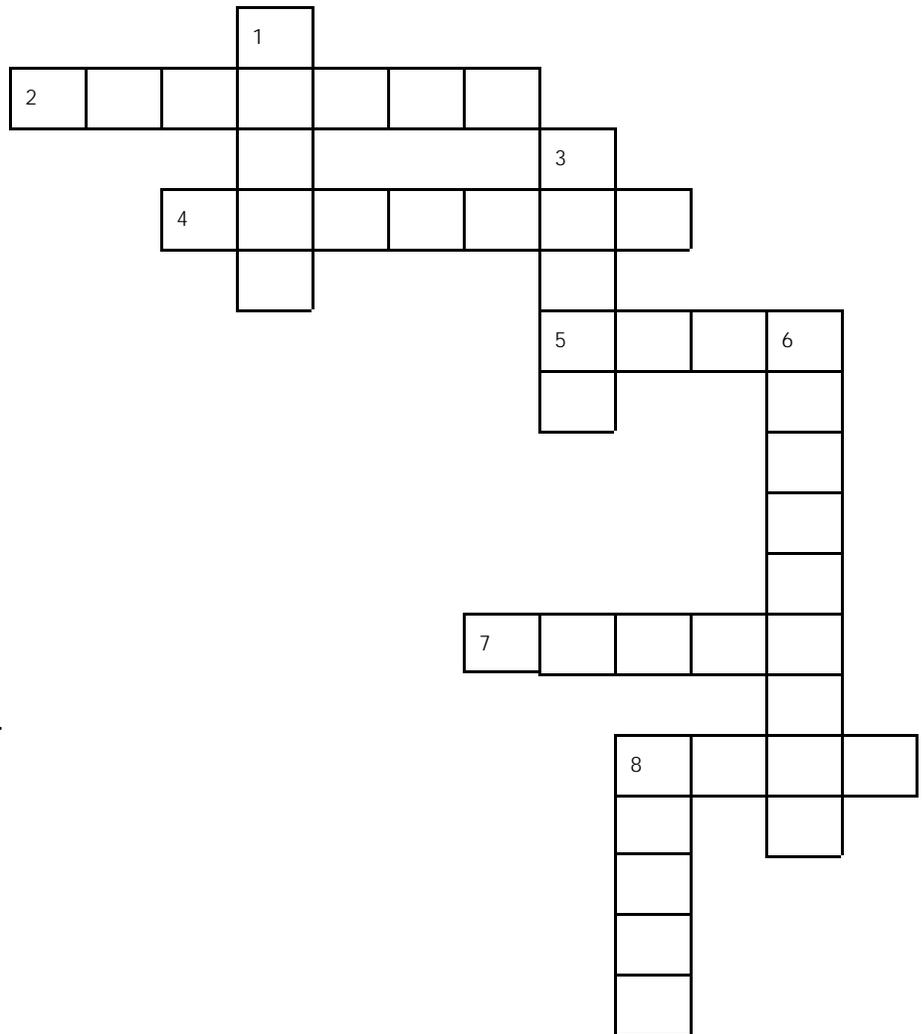
NAOMI	MOAB	DAVID	ORPAH	GLEANED	JESSE
	Relative	BETHLEHEM	OBED		

ACROSS

- 2. What Ruth did in Boaz's field.
- 4. Boaz was this for Ruth and Naomi.
- 5. The country from which Ruth came.
- 7. The grandson of Ruth and Boaz.
- 8. The son of Ruth and Boaz

DOWN

- 1. The king of Israel from whose family Jesus came.
- 3. The name of Elimelech's wife.
- 6. The city in Judah in which Elimelech's family lived.
- 8. The name of Naomi's daughter-in-law (not Ruth).



Inner Aim - God's actions with His faithful people produce many rich blessings.

What God's Word Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. Even though Ruth was not a Jew, she was an ancestor of Jesus. Jesus was born from her family line. Why was that a special blessing for Ruth?
2. What are some important lessons we learn from the story of Ruth?

Passages

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

Psalms 17:8 Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings.

Revelation 2:10 Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Hymn TLH #521 v. 1

What God ordains is always good;
His will abideth holy;
As He directs my life for me,
I follow meek and lowly.
My God indeed in ev'ry need
Doth well know how to shield me;
To Him, then, I will yield me.

What God ordains is always good.
This truth remains unshaken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
I shall not be forsaken.
I fear no harm, for with His arm
He shall embrace and shield me;
So to my God I yield me.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

We know Your love for us because You sent your Son, Jesus, to be the Savior, not only of the Jews, but also for us who are not Jews. You know how best to direct our lives for our own good and the eternal good of others. We pray that You would give us trusting and faithful hearts to follow Your direction throughout our life.

Encourage us when we are tempted to become discouraged. Strengthen us when we feel weary. Make our words and actions a blessing to others that through us others may also share in the blessings that You richly provide us. We ask this, trusting that You will receive our prayer because of Jesus who redeemed us. Amen.

Ruth

Ruth 1-4

These are rosary beads. Do you know what religion uses them?

Why is it wrong to believe that praying over and over will help you get to heaven? Who is the only Way to heaven?

Today we will find out about Ruth. Her family did not believe in the true God. What did she do?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Be with us as we study the lesson of Ruth. Help us to learn from Your Word and then apply Your Word to our lives as Ruth did. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



The Story

Ruth 1:1-10, 14-17, 19-22, 2:1-13, 15-17. 19-20, 23, 3:1-3, 6, 9, 12, 13b, 16, 4:1-6, 13, 17

Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion – Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.

Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons.

Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years. Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.

Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of

Moab that the LORD had visited His people in giving them bread.

Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.

And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

"The LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

And they said to her, "Surely we will return with you to your people."

Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. And she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."



But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me."

Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?"

So she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.

"I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech; his name was Boaz.

So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!"

Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"

So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, "It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.

"And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house."

Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women.

"Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."

Then she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before.

"The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants."

And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.

"Also let some grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."

So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."

Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "The man is a relative of ours, one of our near kinsmen."

So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?"

"Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our kinsman? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

"Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking."

So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.

And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a near kinsman."

"Now it is true that I am your near kinsman; however, there is a kinsman nearer than I."

"It shall be that if he will perform the duty of a near kinsman for you – good; let him

do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives!"

So when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "Is that you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her.

Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the near kinsman of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down.

And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.

Then he said to the near kinsman, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech.

"And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.'" And he said, "I will redeem it."

Then Boaz said, "On the day that you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead on his inheritance."

And the near kinsman said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself."

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying; "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

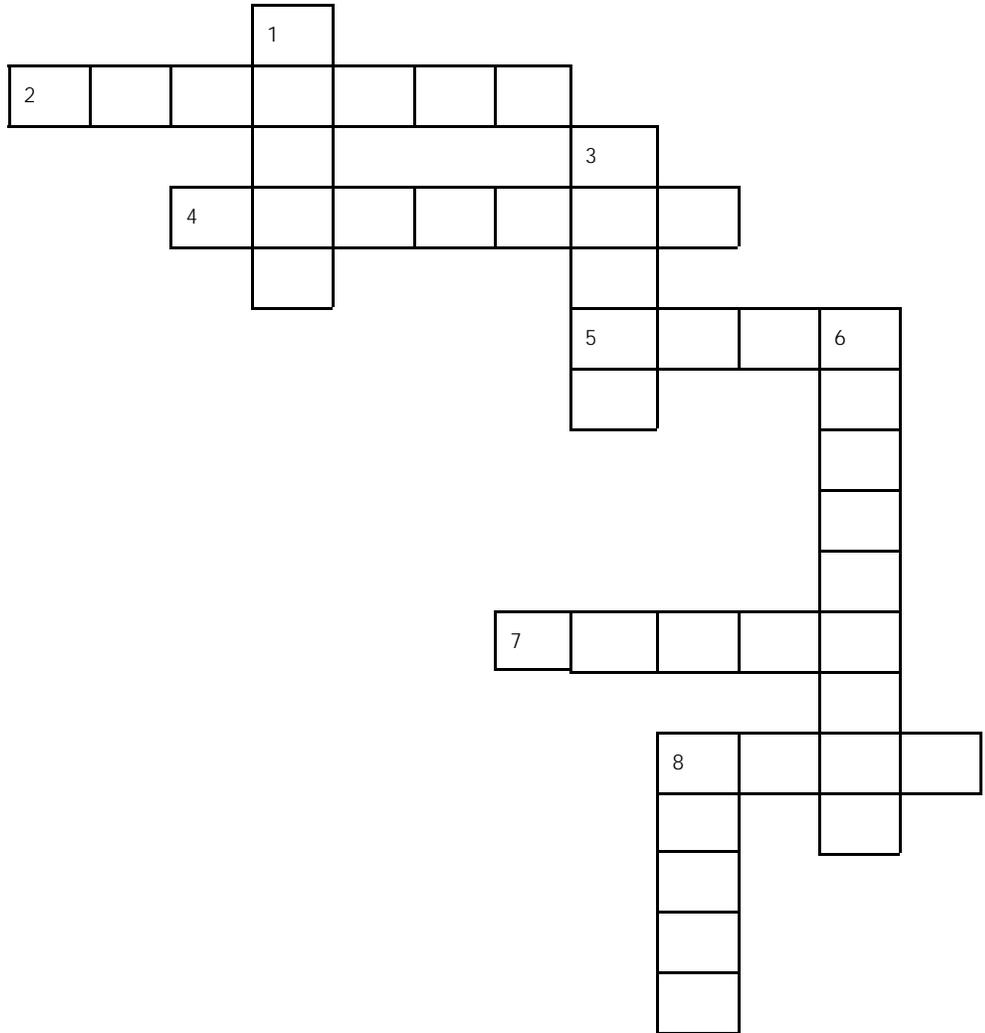
Outer Aim - God blesses a faithful widow with a new family.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the crossword puzzle using words from the Word Box.

NAOMI	MOAB	DAVID	ORPAH	GLEANED
JESSE	KINSMAN	BETHLEHEM	OBED	

ACROSS

2. What Ruth did in Boaz's field.
4. Boaz was this for Ruth and Naomi.
5. The country from which Ruth came.
7. The grandson of Ruth and Boaz.
8. The son of Ruth and Boaz



DOWN

1. The king of Israel from whose family Jesus came.
3. The name of Elimelech's wife.
6. The city in Judah in which Elimelech's family lived.
8. The name of Naomi's daughter-in-law (not Ruth).

Inner Aim - God's actions with His faithful people produce many rich blessings.

What God's Word Tells Us - Discuss the following.

1. How did Ruth follow the 1st Commandment?
2. How did Ruth follow the 4th Commandment?

3. In Luke 18:29-30 Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life." Walking by faith, Ruth left her family and false God and trusted the true God to work in her life. Name the many blessings God gave Ruth.

4. Name some blessings God has given you in your life.

Passages

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

Psalms 17:8 Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings.

Revelation 2:10 Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Hymn TLH #521 v. 1

What God ordains is always good;
 His will abideth holy;
 As He directs my life for me,
 I follow meek and lowly.
 My God indeed in ev'ry need
 Doth well know how to shield me;
 To Him, then, I will yield me.

What God ordains is always good.
 This truth remains unshaken.
 Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
 I shall not be forsaken.
 I fear no harm, for with His arm
 He shall embrace and shield me;
 So to my God I yield me.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, We know Your love for us because You sent your Son, Jesus, to be the Savior, not only of the Jews, but also for us who are not Jews. You know how best to direct our lives for our own good and the eternal good of others. We pray that You would give us trusting and faithful hearts to follow Your direction throughout our life.

Encourage us when we are tempted to discouragement. Strengthen us when we feel weary. Make our words and actions a blessing to others that through us others may also share in the blessings that You richly provide us. We ask this, trusting that You will receive our prayer because of Jesus who redeemed us. Amen.